

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 135959
ORIGIN NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 NSCE-00 PM-05 SP-02
SS-15 SSO-00 INRE-00 EB-08 MCT-01 IO-13 HA-05
L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 /096 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/AFN:JKBISHOP:MAR
APPROVED BY NEA:HNSAUNDERS
-----007098 271801Z /41

O P 271646Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 135959

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, AG

SUBJECT: ASSISTANT SECRETARY SAUNDERS' MAY 25 MEETING WITH
ALGERIAN FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTEFLIKA

1. SUMMARY: DURING COURTESY CALL SCHEDULED AT SAUNDERS' REQUEST, BOUTEFLIKA SPOKE POSITIVELY OF BILATERAL RELATIONS. HE CRITICIZED THE CRITICS OF SOVIYINTERVENTION IN AFRICA AND ACCUSED THE FRENCH OF REVERSION TO COLONIAL TACTICS IN THEIR INTERVENTION. SAUNDERS DESCRIBED PROSPECTIVE TERRORISM LEGISLATION, AND BOUTEFLIKA WITHIN THIS CONTEXT SAID ALGERIA WOULD NOT WITHDRAW ITS SUPPORT FROM POLISARIO. BOUTEFLIKA DID NOT ANSWER QUESTION ABOUT POSSIBLE RECENT DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS WITHMOROCCO ON SAHARA BUT EXPRESSED ALGERIAN WILLINGNESS TO TALK AND AFFIRMED NEED FOR A POLITICAL SOLUTION. IN A REFERENCE TO COMPROMISE AS ALTERNATIVE BASIS FOR NEGOTIATIONS, HE INDICATED SOME ALGERIAN FLEXIBILITY ON SELF-DETERMINATION BUT HE MAINTAINED THAT ALGERIA COULD NOT GUARANTEE POLISARIO ACCEPTANCE OF COMPROMISE. SAUNDERS OUTLINED ELEMENTS OF U.S. MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS STRATEGY AND OFFERED TO KEEP ALGERIA INFORMED OF PROGRESS MADE. END SUMMARY.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 135959

TIATED SETTLEMENT, HE INDICATED SOME ALGERIAN FLEXIBILITY ON SELF-DETERMINATION BUT HE MAINTAINED THAT ALGERIA COULD NOT GUARANTEE POLISARIO ACCEPTANCE OF COMPROMISE. SAUNDERS OUTLINED ELEMENTS OF U.S. MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS STRATEGY AND OFFERED TO KEEP ALGERIA INFORMED OF PROGRESS MADE. END SUMMARY.

2. BILATERAL RELATIONS: AFTER COURTESIES, BOUTEFLIKA CHARACTERIZED QUALITY OF BILATERAL RELATIONS AS IMPROVING, ESPECIALLY IN ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL SPHERES. SAUNDERS NOTED AMERICANS BECOMING EVER MORE ENGAGED IN MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA, BRINGING US TO POINT WHERE THERE WILL BE A REAL NATIONAL POLICY TOWARD THE AREA, NOT JUST A GOVERNMENT POLICY. BOUTEFLIKA EXPRESSED PLEASURE THAT U.S. HAS BEEN PREPARED TO SEPARATE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS AND ALSO HAS BEEN COOPERATING WITH GENUINELY NON-ALIGNED NATIONS. HE SAID SETTLEMENT OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN PROBLEM HAD REMOVED OBSTACLE WHICH HAD ARISEN TO ALGERIAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS SO WELL BEGUN WITH STATEMENT OF SENATOR JOHN F. KENNEDY. ALGERIA PARTICULARLY WELL DISPOSED TOWARD CARTER ADMINISTRATION AND WANTS PERMANENT DIALOGUE AND STEADILY IMPROVING RELATIONS. SAUNDERS SAID THIS DESIRE FULLY

SHARED BY U.S.

3. SOVIET INTERVENTION: AFTER BOUTEFLIKA REFERRED TO COMPETITION BETWEEN FRENCH AND SOVIETS IN AFRICA, SAUNDERS NOTED THAT MANY U.S. FRIENDS IN GENERAL AREA HAD EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT SOVIET ROLE. IN RAMBLING RESPONSE, BOUTEFLIKA SAID THAT WHILE SOVIETS WERE HARDLY "CHOIR BOYS", GENUINELY NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES COULD NOT BE SYSTEMATICALLY ANTI-SOVIET OR ANTI-AMERICAN. EVERYONE KNEW CHANGE MUST COME IN ETHIOPIA, AND THE NATURE OF THE EMPEROR'S REGIME

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 135959

MADE IT INEVITABLE THAT CHANGE WOULD BE VIOLENT. THE NEW RULERS CALL THEMSELVES MARXIST-LENINISTS, ALTHOUGH THE MATERIAL BASIS FOR SCIENTIFIC SOCIALISM IS ABSENT. ALGERIA RESPECTS THIS CHOICE BECAUSE IT IS ACCOMPANIED BY THE WILL TO MOVE FORWARD. SAUDI ANTI-COMMUNISM DOES NOT JUSTIFY SUPPORT FOR SOMALI EFFORTS TO DISMEMBER AN ANCIENT COUNTRY. ERITREA CLEARLY MUST HAVE A POLITICAL SOLUTION. THE RUSSIANS HAVE EXPECTED AFGHANISTAN TO FOLLOW CLOSELY THE POLICIES OF THE SOVIET UNION SINCE THE TIME OF LENIN. THE REPUBLIC WAS AGGRAVATING THE SITUATION. FEUDALISM LEADS INEVITABLY TO REVOLUTION, REGARDLESS OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE U.S. OR USSR. IT IS TOO EARLY, HE CONTINUED, TO PASS JUDGMENT ON WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN AFGHANISTAN. CONCLUDING THIS PORTION OF DISCUSSION, BOUTEFLIKA DESCRIBED SAUDI AND IRANIAN REGIMES AS PREOCCUPIED WITH THE PROTECTION AND SELF-PERPETUATION OF RULING FAMILIES.

4. TERRORISM LEGISLATION: SAUNDERS EXPLAINED SENATE CONSIDERING LEGISLATION WHICH WOULD CUT OFF U.S. ASSISTANCE TO NATIONS PROVIDING FINANCE, ARMS AND DOCUMENTS LIKELY TO BE USED IN ACTS OF INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM. CITING ALGERIA'S LINKS WITH POLISARIO, PFLP AND PLO, HE

NOTED THESE ORGANIZATIONS HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN TERRORISM.
AFTER DESCRIBING FEBRUARY ALGERIAN DECISION ON HIJACKING
AS VERY POSITIVE AND HELPFUL, SAUNDERS SAID AMBASSADOR

HAYNES WILL BE ABLE TO SUPPLY ALGERIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY
WITH TEXTS OF LEGISLATION AS IT MOVES THROUGH CONGRESS.

5. IN HIS RESPONSE, BOUTEFLIKA NOTED DIFFICULTY IN
DEFINING TERRORISM, COMMENTING THAT AS FLN MEMBER AND IN-
SURGENT HE HAD BEEN DESCRIBED AS TERRORIST BY FRENCH.
FRANCE WOULD NEVER HAVE NEGOTIATED PEACE WITH ALGERIA IF
HE AND OTHERS HAD NOT USED VIOLENCE. A PALESTINIAN
REGIME WOULD NOT BE CREATED BY PEOPLE SITTING AROUND
TAKING UNRWA HANDOUTS, AND HE WOULD NOT, SAID BOUTEFLIKA,
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 135959

CALL A DOG MAD IN ORDER TO KILL IT. ALGERIA GAVE LESS
FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO PLO THAN WEALTHIER ARAB STATES AND
CERTAINLY DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN PLANNING OF HIJACKING
OR POLITICAL KILLINGS. HOWEVER, ALGERIA SUPPORTED PRIN-
CIPLE OF SELF-DETERMINATION WORLDWIDE. AS FAR AS HI-
JACKING AND ASSASSINATION ARE CONCERNED, ALGERIA EXPECTS
TO BE A RESPONSIBLE NATION AND IS READY FOR DIALOGUE AND
DISCUSSION.

6. WESTERN SAHARA: WITHIN CONTEXT OF DISCUSSION ON
TERRORISM, BOUTEFLIKA SAID HE WANTED IT ABSOLUTELY CLEAR
THAT ALGERIA WOULD NOT DISENGAGE FROM FROM ITS SUPPORT
FOR POLISARIO. REFERRING TO NOVEMBER DISCUSSIONS WITH
SECRETARY, BOUTEFLIKA SAID SECRETARY'S AFFIRMATION OF U.S.
NEUTRALITY HAD BEEN VERIFIED REPEATEDLY BY U.S. POSITIONS.
HE SAID HIS OFFER FOR U.S. TO PLAY A ROLE IN RESOLVING
PROBLEM REMAINS OPEN. BOUTEFLIKA AVOIDED A DIRECT REPLY
TO SAUNDERS' INQUIRY ON REPORTS OF ALGERIAN-MOROCCAN
TALKS. HE DID INSIST THAT SAHARA CONFLICT WILL BE SOLVED
BY POLITICAL RATHER THAN MILITARY MEANS. HE FORESAW TWO
POSSIBILITIES: SELF-DETERMINATION BY DEMOCRATIC PROCESS
WITHOUT PREJUDICIAL RESTRAINTS, OR SOME COMPROMISE. WITH
RESPECT TO LATTER, POLISARIO WOULD HAVE TO BE INVOLVED AS
REPRESENTATIVE OF SAHARAN PEOPLE, AND A COMPROMISE WOULD
HAVE TO ASSURE THE SAHARANS OF "AN ENTITY AND THEIR
IDENTITY." ALGERIA COULD BE HELPFUL IN PRESSURING THE
POLISARIO TO TAKE A REASONABLE ATTITUDE IN NEGOTIATIONS
BUT WOULD NOT BE ABLE TMGUARANTEE POLISARIO ACCEPTANCE
OF ANY COMPROMISE. AS FOR ALGERIA, IF THE FRIENDS OF THE
MAGHREB WANT TO ARRANGE A DIALOGUE, "WE ARE READY."
BOUTEFLIKA SAID ALGERIA FINANCES ARMS AND TRAINS THE
POLISARIO BUT NO ALGERIAN SOLDIERS ARE INVOLVED IN THEIR
OPERATIONS. HE MAINTAINED THAT IF A SINGLE MOROCCAN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 05 STATE 135959

SOLDIER CROSSED THE ALGERIAN FRONTIER THE RESPONSE WOULD BE "GENERAL AND GLOBAL."

7. MIDDLE EAST: DURING DISCUSSION ON THIS TOPIC, SAUNDERS SAID U.S. CONCENTRATING ON HOW PALESTINIANS MIGHT BE

ENGAGED IN DETERMINING THEIR OWN FUTURE AND HOW ARAB GOVERNMENTS MIGHT BE PERSUADED TO SUPPORT THE PROCESS. DIFFERENCES WITHIN THE ARAB WORLD, AMONG THE PALESTINIANS AND IN ISRAEL MAKE IT EVIDENT SERIOUS COMPROMISE WILL BE NECESSARY. FOR INSTANCE, IT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE TO MEET FULLY ARAB DEMANDS FOR A FULLY INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN STATE TO BE CREATED IMMEDIATELY. THE U.S. IS TRYING TO FIND A PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENT WHICH WILL GET THE TWO PARTIES HEADED TOWARD AN EQUITABLE SOLUTION. OFFERING TO KEEP ALGERIA INFORMED OF PROGRESS MADE IN THIS DIRECTION, SAUNDERS EXPRESSED HOPE ARAB GOVERNMENTS WOULD GIVE PRACTICAL STEPS THEIR CAREFUL CONSIDERATION IN THE LIGHT OF REALISTIC ALTERNATIVES, EVEN WHEN THE OUTLINE OF AN ULTIMATE SOLUTION IS NOT CLEAR.

8. RESPONDING, FORMIN SAID U.S. SOMETIME WILL HAVE TO ACCEPT PALESTINIANS AS THEY ARE. FOR ALGERIA, BASE RE-MAINS VANCE/GROMYKO DECLARATION OF LAST OCTOBER. SADAT INITIATIVE HAD DESTROYED ARAB SOLIDARITY, ONE OF THE FUNDAMENTAL ELEMENTS FOR A SOLUTION. IT HAD UPSET MOVEMENT TOWARD GENEVA. SAUNDERS SAID .S. STANDS BY VANCE/GROMYKO STATEMENT. SADAT INITIATIVE WAS A PSYCHOLOGICAL BREAK-THROUGH WHICH MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE TO CLAIM THAT ALL ARAB GOVERNMENTS OPPOSED PEACE. AS A RESULT, QUESTIONS WHICH HAD BEEN AVOIDED NOW FOR ELEVEN YEARS MUST BE ANSWERED BY ISRAEL. U.S. POLICY IS NOT RPT NOT TO DIVIDE THE ARABS. U.S. REALIZES PROGRESS TOWARD OVERALL PEACE CAN BE MADE ONLY WHEN THERE IS ARAB UNITY. LONG-TERM OBJECTIVE OF U.S. IS TO GET BACK ON TRACK TOWARD A COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT. BUT WHAT HAS HAPPENED SINCE SADAT'S VISIT TO
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 06 STATE 135959

JERUSALEM MUST BE FOLDED IN.

9. FRANCO-ALGERIAN RELATIONS: BOUTEFLIKA SAID ALGERIA COULD ACCEPT ALL ASPECTS OF FRENCH POLICY IN AFRICA EXCEPT ITS MILITARY INTERVENTION. HE EXPRESSED HOPE U.S. WOULD LEAD FRANCE TO A "MORE REASONABLE POSITION" AND SAID ALGERIA WOULD WELCOME ANY U.S. DEMARCHE TO FRANCE ALONG

THESE LINES.

10. BIOGRAPHICAL - TWICE DURING TWO HOUR DISCUSSION
BOUTEFLIKA CORRECTED INTERPRETATION, DEMONSTRATING GOOD
UNDERSTANDING OF SPOKEN ENGLISH AND SPEAKING BRIEFLY IN
ACCENTED ENGLISH.
VANCE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MINISTERIAL MEETINGS, LIBERATION FRONTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE135959
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JKBISHOP:MAR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780225-0036
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780510/aaaaaiof.tel
Line Count: 231
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 3a2a4693-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2509576
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ASSISTANT SECRETARY SAUNDERS' MAY 25 MEETING WITH ALGERIAN FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTEFLIKA
TAGS: PEPR, PGOV, AG, POLISARIO, (BOUTEFLIKA, ABDELAZIZ), (SAUNDER, HAROLD)
To: ALGIERS
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3a2a4693-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014